

During the input process, the user selects, using the graphical user interface, the parameters which enable the graphs of Figure 8 to be generated. The data corresponding to the graphs have been previously created in the database of the system. When the graphs are presented, as illustrated in Figures 8A, 8B,..., the presentation identifies the parameters relating to the graph including the ports of the controller which have been used, the nature of the tests, such as a random delayed fast write, the size of the blocks which have been used, and other test parameters as indicated in the Figures 8A, 8B,....

By plotting this information in a graphical format, the user is enabled to spot trends in the data as a result of changes over time, or other parameters. This data is also available for viewing on screen.

#### Graphical User Interface

The system provides for a graphical user interface which enables operational parameters of the system to be created quickly, with repeatability, reliability, and use by a much broader audience. The graphic user interface is essentially a front-end device for the invention which automatically operates to generate and/or work on three types of files: configuration rule data, workload data, and benchmark data. It allows the selection of various test types based upon the user inputs which are provided in a "point and click" manner. The graphic user interface of the invention is substantially more reliable for the user and enables the user to quickly and easily define the system tests which are to be performed.

The typical graphic user interface is presented, in accordance with the invention, in Figures 9A, 9B,.... In accordance with these Figures, and referring to the nomenclature either well known in the art or noted above in connection with various adaptor elements of a system, the various elements of the interface are indicated and described therein.

The user is thus enabled to form this presentation using the graphical user interface.

Additions, subtractions, and other modifications of the illustrated embodiment of the invention will be apparent to those practicing in this field and are within the scope of the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for measuring system performance in a mass storage system, the storage  
 2 system having a plurality of disk drive storage elements controlled by a disk drive controller,  
 3 said controller receiving commands and data from and returning at least data to a plurality of  
 4 host computers, said method comprising the steps of  
 5 enabling a graphical user interface for generating an input parameter containing  
 6 sequence input of commands for operating said system for measuring system performance,  
 7 generating from said input parameter sequence a test sequence input identifying  
 8 commands to be sent to the storage system,  
 9 executing at at least one host computer a test request identified by said test sequence  
 10 input, by sending commands to said mass storage system,  
 11 accumulating, at at least said executing host computer, data regarding performance of  
 12 said mass storage system, in response to the requests sent by said host computer, and  
 13 processing said accumulated data regarding the performance of said mass storage  
 14 system in response at least to said one host-generated command

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising generating at said graphical user interface  
 2 at least one of configuration data, workbench data, and benchmark data.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising generating at said graphical user interface  
 2 configuration data, workbench data, and benchmark data.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting, user the graphical user interface,  
 2 from various test types for the input sequence of commands, in a point and click fashion.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said test types include defining a system  
 2 configuration, test periods, and sequence of test repeats.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying details of a storage system  
 2 configuration and workload using the graphical user interface.